

Paul, Gary re Davison

10/30/69

The Davison material Paul mailed 10/21 is really exciting. The whole affair is another 544, with even the same obfuscatory techniques. I send you this additional note recalling what I had written earlier, that what was then known, before these reports, compelled belief this was a solid lead on an intelligence operation. The manner, content and more, non-content of these non-reports is further compelling. The FBI knew Davison was intelligence as soon as it knew he was air attache. They without doubt understood the potential without any investigation, that is why they conducted none -not to develop and record what they knew should not be, from the point of view and in the interest of the ghosts, all as whose sheets, ultimately, come from and go to the same laundry.

Except as a disguised intelligence story, this makes sense only as updated Alice in Wonderland.

Let me do some guessing and assign Davison a special function: with all the US students and other travellers in the USSR, he was one only one could always see without attracting undue attention to himself.

Before you sent me this, I strongly urged keeping this close. I do so more vehemently now, for it is hardly the kind of thing that should be loosely talked about or shared with any about whom any of us may reasonably feel he has reasonable grounds for suspicion. The potential of this little thing is enormous. Let us not jeopardize it and what we may yet do with it and what it may yet lead us to without good and compelling reason.

I'd also like to suggest that whoever is most familiar with the Penkovsky story give me a memo with nothing but the approximate dates that should be checked in the Atlanta papers and the NYTimes and I'll see if I can get that done at the Library of Congress. I can probably get the NYT done by my source of the London Times stories + offered you. This is the time for slow, careful steps, one after the other, no big jumps. It is also the kind of thing about which very many powerful people can get up real tight about. Please be very careful in all aspects and actions....And another source to check is Medical World News. I can ask Yril for this, when I have the proper dates. And others, if he doesn't have and keep it... And the Air Academy catalogue, curriculum, staff. If either of you has told anyone other than Jim about this, I strongly encourage you to go no further. It is too important for any unnecessary risk. As I wrote earlier, this sounds so much like what I know of from my earlier experiences. Let us not either blow or telegraph it. Please. HW